

International Paper Sizes

There is a standardised system of related sheet sizes, based on a series of three different sizes called A, B or C - all of the same proportions.

All sizes have the rectangular proportion of $1:\sqrt{2}$ (or 1:1.414) which is mathematically unique - no other size allows paper to be cut, or folded, in half and yet remain the same proportion.

Because these proportions always remain constant, artwork will enlarge or reduce photographically to fit any international size. It is also not necessary to give dimensions of paper, as descriptions such as A4 or A3 are in universal use.

Definition of weight, or "substance", of paper is expressed in constant terms as "grams per square metre" (or gsm). If a sheet of A0 paper weighs 90 grams it is then described as "90 gsm", regardless of the actual size of the sheet.

The A Series

The series is for general printed matter including stationery and publications. The basic standard sheet A0 measures 841 x 1189mm which is the equivalent of a square metre in area. Each number after the series initial A indicates a halving of the preceding larger area. Thus A1 is half of A0, A2 is one-quarter of A0, A3 is an eighth of the A0 sheet area, etc. Sheet sizes larger than A0 retain the same proportions and a designating numeral is prefixed to the letter. Thus 2A0 indicates a sheet twice as large as A0.

size	millimetres	size	millimetres
4A0	1682 x 2378	A4	210 x 297
2A0	1189 x 1682	A5	148 x 210
A0	841 x 1189	A6	105 x 148
A1	594 x 841	A7	74 x 105
A2	420 x 594	A8	52 x 74
A3	297 x 420	A9	37 x 52

All of the above A sizes are trimmed sizes.

The B Series

The B series is about half way between two A sizes. It is intended as an alternative to the A sizes, used primarily for books, posters, wall charts and similar pieces where the difference in size of the larger sheets in the A series represents too large a jump. The basic B size, called B0, measures 1000 x 1414mm.

size	millimetres	size	millimetres
B0	1000 x 1414	B5	176 x 250
B1	707 x 1000	B6	125 x 177
B2	500 x 707	B7	88 x 125
B3	353 x 500	B8	62 x 88
B4	250 x 353	B9	44 x 62

The C Series

The C series is used for folders, post cards, and envelopes. The C series of envelope sizes is suitable for insertion of A series sizes either flat or folded. A C6 envelope will take A6 sheet flat, an A5 folded once, or an A4 sheet folded twice.

size	millimetres	size	millimetres
C0	917 x 1297	C4	229 x 324
C1	648 x 917	C5	162 x 229
C2	458 x 648	C6	114 x 162
C3	324 x 458	C7	81 x 114

International Envelope Sizes

The full list of ISO envelope sizes is shown below. All are from the B or C sheet sizes with the exception of one designated DL (DIN Lang).

size	millimetres	size	millimetres
C3	324 x 458	B6	125 x 176
B4	250 x 353	C6	114 x 162
C4	229 x 324	DL	110 x 230
B5	176 x 250	C7/6	81 x 162
C5	162 x 229	C7	81 x 114
B6 C4	324 x 176		